



CELEBRATING THE 2ND YEAR OF FMNR EXPERIENCES

1. INTRODUCTION

In April 2013 LEAD Foundation celebrated the first anniversary of FMNR movement in Mpwapwa and Kongwa districts, 2012/13. Notable efforts included:

- (a) Introduction of FMNR to district and village leaders in Mpwapwa and Kongwa.
- (b) Identification and training of groups of ten farmers at each of the six project villages.
- (c) Production of training materials in the local Swahili language.
- (d) Initial basic training to farmers at some of the project villages.
- (e) Sacrificial giving by LEAD Founders in a year that had no outside support.

In this year 2013/14, the second FMNR anniversary at LEAD Foundation is celebrated with even more pronounced experiences. These experiences continue to give us strength to strive to do more. Below are some of those experiences that have inspired LF.

2. FMNR EXPERIENCES 2013/14

2.1 "Conserve Kiboriani-the Fountain of Life" Project

"Conserve Kiboriani-the Fountain of Life" Project has continued to grow steadily, in spite of a few setbacks. The planned activities in the six project villages were carried out as planned. The landmark was the joint workshop for Mpwapwa and Kongwa district leaders, led by their District Commissioners. The workshop was most richly blessed by the extremely enlightening and winsome presentations of Tony and Liz Rinaudo from World Vision Australia, and Assefa Tofu from World Vision East Africa Office. It was opened by Archbishop Jacob Chimeledya of the Anglican Church of Tanzania who is also Bishop of the Diocese of Mpwapwa.

The workshop occasion was used also to formally launch FMNR in Mpwapwa and Kongwa districts, with launch symbols of four living tree stumps pruned by Tony Rinaudo, Assefa Tofu, and the two District Commissioners.

The training and the fellowship left an indelible mark in the minds and hearts of participants.



Two important developments were observed during implementation of the Kiboriani project. First, the new wine tearing off old wineskins when FMNR refused to be boxed into just a project mode. LEAD Foundation's project approach of starting with one group was soon perceived by other community members to be too slow a process for a promising remedy like FMNR.

This was first experienced at both Mlanga and Ugogoni villages in Kongwa district during follow-up visits in December 2013. At Mlanga, it was at a church service on Sunday, when the one group approach was challenged and the LEAD Foundation visiting facilitator was asked to give a brief training on FMNR to the whole congregation at the end of the service.

After the brief introduction of FMNR, with the slogan - "Kisiki Hai-Mkombozi wa Mazingira" (A Living Tree Stump - Liberator of the Environment) - several people acknowledged, what they termed as 'their sin' of suppressing the underground forest. A lady offered to take the demonstration poster around the hall, at the request of the congregation, for everyone to see what they were destroying. The prompt session lasted for one hour.



The other experience was the awakening of government concern for conserving Kiboriani forests. Two years ago this was not the case, particularly on the Mpwapwa side of the range. This year, four high level workshops, facilitated by national government agencies, were held at the Kiboriani Retreat Centre, focussing on Kiboriani conservation. LEAD Foundation was invited to talk about FMNR and the role of communities for forest management. At the final workshop, it was resolved not to pursue an earlier

plan of resettling established communities up the mountains, and instead to train them on effective means of forest conservation and management.

2.2 Rolling out FMNR to the whole of Mpwapwa and Kongwa districts

The urge to roll out FMNR to the whole of Mpwapwa and Kongwa districts was expressed during the first year, following introduction of FMNR to district leaders. It was repeated at the National Launch of FMNR in Dodoma in April 2013. District council departments, NGOs and Institutions were called upon to mainstream FMNR in their programmes. LEAD Foundation was challenged to brace itself for training trainers to be available at ward levels.

This has begun to bear fruit. Heads of agriculture and natural resources departments, NGOs including INADES, St Philip's Theological College in the two districts are working with ward extension staff to spread FMNR method to communities. The Anglican Diocese of Mpwapwa which covers the two districts of Mpwapwa and Kongwa, with 120 parishes, has directed every parish priest to be familiar with FMNR and spread it in their parishes, with a monitoring instrument developed.



Seven representatives of NGOs and Institutions mainstreaming FMNR in their programmes pose for picture with LEAD Foundation staff.

2.3 Scout Movement Opens the Door to plant FMNR Seed District-wide

Driven by the need to find best ways of nurturing youths, Mpwapwa district launched a district-wide Scout movement. 74 out of 93 villages sponsored a girl and a boy, turning out 148 youth volunteers, for a one-week residential training. FMNR was one of the principle subjects taught. Given its connections with the national scouting movement LEAD Foundation was charged with overall coordination of scout movement training for the whole district.

For FMNR, this means there are at least 148 young people who, as part of their scout promotion, should be practicing and promoting FMNR in their villages. Some village governments have allotted plots to their

scout leaders to establish their woodlots through FMNR, which will also serve as demonstration sites.



2.4 FMNR presented at National Public Events

2.4.1 National Farmers Agricultural Show in Dodoma (Nane Nane = August 8th as climax)



LEAD Foundation FMNR Stand at at Nane-Nane 2013

This was an offshoot of the national workshop held in Dar es Salaam early July 2013, where Tony and Liz Rinaudo, and Assefa Tofu, were the principle presenters on FMNR. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture at the meeting invited LEAD Foundation to share the Ministry's Booth at the National Farmers Agricultural Show in Dodoma the following month. After some hesitation on account of costs the invitation was gratefully accepted and eventually LEAD Foundation found itself displaying FMNR material at three Booths, including that of the Vice President's Office.

This was a unique experience and opportunity. FMNR was introduced and leaflets handed over to a wide range of visitors, including Senior Government



Officials, primary, secondary and university students, individuals and groups of farmers.

2.4.2 The Annual Uhuru Torch Race



Mpwapwa (left) and Kongwa (right) District Commissioners handing over and receiving the Uhuru Torch

The Uhuru Torch Race is another very popular annual national event when the Torch is raced through all the districts in the country. It attracts lots of people, with overnight celebrations where it spends the night. The District Commissioner, convinced that FMNR would make exciting news at the event, asked LEAD Foundation to stage FMNR demonstration on the Uhuru Torch grounds. He was proven right, judging by the keen interest shown by the Visitors and various people. The Zanzibar member in the Uhuru Torch Leadership Team invited LEAD Foundation to take the FMNR good news to Zanzibar as well.



FMNR Stand on Uhuru Torch Grounds

2.4.3 Nyerere Day National Celebrations

Nyerere Day is celebrated every year in honor of the Founder President of Tanzania. Some of those who worked closely with President Nyerere are usually asked to give testimony about the life and work of the late President at the climax of the celebrations. This year the national celebration was held in Dodoma. Bishop Chiwanga, who served as Minister for Education under his Presidency, was invited.

He began his brief testimony by leading the masses present with a very popular hit song, which praises the beauty of the country, its mountains, valleys and rivers. Everyone rose to their feet singing and dancing. Bishop Chiwanga picked two aspects which deeply touched the audience. First, about Mwalimu Nyerere's exemplary integrity and resolve. In a private conversation, President Nyerere once disclosed to Bishop Chiwanga how he resolved within a day to quit a twenty year addiction of a chain-smoker to non-smoking, in deep appreciation of Tanzanians' confidence in him after a landslide victory at the General Elections of 1965.

Then Bishop Chiwanga turned to the hit song, with a question as to whether, today, Tanzanians, particularly those of Central Tanzania and other dry land regions, can sing with a clean conscience about the beauty of the mountains, valleys and rivers? The audience was quick to respond with a resounding 'No!' The audience was then reminded of President Nyerere's passionate commitment to environmental conservation, and that the best way to honour him was to be equally passionately committed to restoring the worst degraded environments, using the best method possible. Holding high a carefully dug out tree stump Bishop Chiwanga said, "The good news is, 'Kisiki Hai' (for FMNR) offers the best way of restoring the worst degraded environments." After a short description of FMNR method, the testimony was concluded with another popular slogan, "It can be done, play your part!" (President Nyerere).

The attention of the audience was awesome. The Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr. Rehema Nchimbi, quickly moved to the Podium and asked Bishop Chiwanga to hand over to her, publicly, the tree stump to signify her commitment to promoting FMNR in her Region.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner receiving tree stump

2.4.4 Spread of FMNR in Central Tanzania

LEAD Foundation originally planned to move to the rest of Central Tanzania after gaining experience from the Kiboriani project in Mpwapwa and Kongwa districts. The FMNR tide is now taking its own course

as FMNR makes its surprise appearances here and there in Central Tanzania and elsewhere. LEAD Foundation is finding it difficult to resist invitations from groups and institutions from Dodoma and Singida Regions for training on FMNR. LEAD Foundation Executive Director has been instrumental in the formation of FMNR Clubs at Universities based in Dodoma. The demand for FMNR training materials in Swahili from various people is growing. There is need to find effective ways of serving without neither managing nor stifling this spontaneous expansion of the good news.

3. MAJOR FUTURE PLANS

- Focussed onsite FMNR training at community level.
- Establishing a residential FMNR Training of Trainers programme at Kiboriani Retreat Centre.
- Intensive search for carbon trading opportunities.

4. COMMITMENT TO FOUNDERS' TRANSFORMING VISION

The vision and passion of LF Founders was to see best practices of good governance, environmental conservation and social transformation practiced globally. Fired by the zeal to implement this vision the Founders were content to begin their mission humbly, in a family setting. Initial programmes were focussed on participatory leadership development, reforestation and education for character formation. Two full time pioneer consultants, who were pensionless retirees, were supported entirely by founding family members.

The overwhelming impact of the initial programmes led the Founders to provide their vision and mission with a legal framework. The programme was registered with government as an NGO under the acronym of LEAD Foundation, separating the roles of Founders as sources of policy and support, and the Board of Trustees as managers of resources and operations for the Foundation.

The depth and breadth of this vision and the outstanding commitment of LF Founders and the Board of Trustees have been pivotal in the inspiring progress of FMNR described in this Bulletin. The underlying force has been generosity of spirit in volunteering and in meeting Founder Membership material contributions. For example, out of the total expenditure for just the FMNR Kiboriani project, during 2013/14, of \$40,000, without counting in-kind contributions, \$23,000 came from Founders' contributions and the remaining amount of \$17,000 was a grant gratefully received from World Vision Tanzania.

God has provided graciously for the FMNR achievements realized to date. Looking at the enthusiasm shown by the community, we firmly believe that more could have been and still can be achieved if additional resources could be secured to accelerate capacity building interventions, including material incentives to selected community agents.

The LF commitment to the Founders' transforming vision and appreciation of family beginnings is dynamic, maintaining a healthy union between change and tradition, in responding to community needs. In this, LF was delighted to discover, through the internet, that World Vision upholds a similar principle of *"Constant Adjustments with Original Family Vision."*

"A Tribute to World Vision's 'Birth Mother'

"Family Beginnings: *World Vision started with one man (Bob Pierce) trying to help one child in one country with just \$5. Today, we help more than 4 million children in nearly 100 countries."*

"Growth with Appreciation of Family Beginnings: *Over the past 60-plus years, we've grown and learned that we cannot stay the same."*

"Constant Adjustments with Original Family Vision: *We're constantly adjusting to people's needs, leveraging donations more efficiently, and working toward long-term, sustainable success."*

Posted on April 4, 2011 by [Lindsey Talerico-Hedren](#).

5. APPRECIATION

Reflecting on God's blessings which LEAD Foundation received during the second year of FMNR, the list of people through whom God's blessings were conveyed is enormous. Only a few will be mentioned as representatives: The LEAD Foundation Founders, Trustees and Board of Directors, The Vice President's Office, The Ministry of Agriculture, the Tanzania Forest Agency, the Dodoma Regional Commissioner, the Mpwapwa and Kongwa District Commissioners and their Teams, Communities, World Vision Tanzania, World Vision East Africa Office, World Vision Australia, AusAID, Dr. Dennis Garrity and his Dar es Salaam ICRAF Colleagues, Network Friends, religious leaders, fellow NGOs, LEAD Foundation devoted staff and volunteers. Last, but not least, LEAD Foundation shall never forget the contribution of Mary and Frederick Davidson of Australian Davos Connection, who introduced LEAD Foundation to Tony and Liz Rinaudo, Pioneers of FMNR.

"We are unworthy servants; We have only done what was our duty." (Lk.17:10).

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